

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please **amend** the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 20 and ending at page 21, line 29 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B₁

Analysis of CD spectra of both soluble and resolubilized product revealed the presence of significant β -sheet which is in agreement with that predicted for rBoNTF(H_C) using an artificial neural network (Lebeda, F.J., et al., (1997), "Predicting Differential Antigen-Antibody Contact Regions Based on Solvent Accessibility," *J. Protein Chem.*, **16**:607-618), and that determined by crystal structure of BoNT serotype A (Lacy, D.B., et al., (1998), "Crystal Structure of Botulinum Neurotoxin Type A and Implications for Toxicity," *Nat. Struct. Biol.*, **5**:898-902). However, even though CD revealed that the two antigens possessed similar folds, there were subtle differences between the two spectra suggesting that the secondary structures, and hence, tertiary structures were not identical.

At page 45, following the heading "CLAIMS", please **insert** the following on a new line:

B₂

--We claim:--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel** claims 1-38.

Please **add** new claims 39-86.